REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-33 and 46-50 are presented for examination. No claims have been amended, added, or canceled. No new matter has been added.

Examiner rejected claims 1-33 and 46-50 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 00/72534 A1 (Rabe-Hesketh et al) and U.S. Patent No. 6,742,043 (Moussa et al) and alleged knowledge in the art.

Rabe-Hesketh discloses removing an email attachment and replacing the attachment with a link in the email. The link references the original attachment stored in a server available for later retrieval. Nonetheless, as correctly stated in the Office action, Rabe-Hesketh fails to disclose or suggest formatting attachments based on a user's formatting preference.

Moussa is directed at reformatting and delivering a requested attachment based on information indicative of an email client's capability (Moussa, Col. 16, lines 28-31). The email client makes a request for an email along with information indicative of the email client's capability (Moussa, col. 16, lines 34-46). The email server reformats the email attachment and sends the email with the reformatted email attachment to the email client (Moussa, col. 16, lines 50-62). Nevertheless, as correctly stated in the Office Action, Moussa does not disclose substituting a link in the email to the reformatted attachment in place of the reformatted attachment.

The Examiner suggests the substitution of a link to the reformatted attachment is known in the art.

Claim 1 recites:

> In an online messaging system supporting transmission of attachments, a
> method for automatically processing e-mail messages containing
> attachments, the method comprising:
>> specifying a preference for formatting attachments that accompany
> e-mail messages;
>> receiving a particular e-mail message having a particular
> attachment;
>> detecting capabilities of an intended recipient's receiving device,
> wherein the detecting is performed dynamically, during a request from the
> intended recipient to retrieve the particular e-mail message;
>> responsive to detecting the intended recipient's receiving device
> and responsive to identifying the particular attachment as exceeding
> capabilities of the intended recipient's receiving device, removing the
> particular attachment from the particular message, creating a reformatted
> attachment based on the specified preference, and <u>inserting a link</u> into the
> particular e-mail message, said <u>link capable of referencing the reformatted
> attachment</u>;
>> delivering the particular e-mail message to the intended recipient;
> and
>> in response to invocation of the link by the intended recipient,
> retrieving a copy of the reformatted attachment.

(Claim 1) Claim 1 recites, "<u>inserting a link</u> into the particular e-mail message, said

<u>link</u> capable of<u> referencing the reformatted attachment</u>." Applicants' linking is supported

at Page 8, Line 19 – 21 and Page 20, Line 24 – Page 21, Line 2.

The Examiner correctly admits that neither Rabe-Hesketh nor Moussa teach or

suggest this claimed element. Instead, the Examiner apparently is giving Official Notice

by relying on "alleged knowledge in the art" to reject the claim. In particular, the

Examiner asserts that it would be obvious to one of skill in the art to substitute "a link to

the email to the reformatted attachment in place of the reformatted attachment" because

there is a one-to-one correlation between the link and the reformatted attachment

(Office Action, p.5).

Applicant respectfully submits that this is not what Applicant claims in claim 1.

Applicant claims "removing the particular attachment from the particular message,

creating a reformatted attachment based on the specified preference, and inserting a

link into the particular e-mail message, said link capable of referencing the reformatted

attachment." Applicant respectfully submits that there is not a one-to-one correlation

between a particular attachment and a link to a reformatted version of that attachment.

Accordingly, because there is not a one-to-one correlation as stated by the Examiner,

Applicant respectfully submits that the missing claim element is not obvious to one of

skill in the art.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's assertion of Official Notice and

further requests documentary evidence supporting Examiner's Official Notice. See

MPEP 2144.03 and 37 CFR 1.104(c)(2).

Thus, neither Rabe-Hesketh nor Moussa disclose or suggest, "inserting a link

into the particular e-mail message, said link capable of referencing the particular

attachment formatted based on the specified preference," nor is this claim element

obvious to one of skill in the art. Therefore, claim 1 and claims 2-25 that depend on

claim 1 are not obvious over Rabe-Hesketh and Moussa and alleged knowledge in the

art.

Claim 26 recites:

> In an online system, a method for providing digital images to target
> devices, the method comprising:
> > receiving an e-mail message having one or more attached objects;
> > detecting capabilities of an intended recipient's receiving device,
> wherein the detecting is performed dynamically, during a request from the
> intended recipient to retrieve the e-mail message;
> > responsive to detecting the intended recipient's receiving device
> and responsive to identifying the objects as exceeding capabilities of the

intended recipient's receiving device, detaching said objects from said message and automatically transforming copies of said objects to a resolution fidelity that is more useful to said target devices;

for each detached object, <u>generating a reference allowing retrieval of a transformed copy of the detached object</u>; and

delivering the e-mail message to the target devices, the e-mail message including said generated reference for each detached object.

(Claim 26). For the same reasons as discussed in claim 1, neither Rabe-Hesketh nor Moussa teach or suggest "<u>generating a reference allowing retrieval of a transformed copy of the detached object</u>" and Applicant respectfully submits that this would not be obvious to one of skill in the art. Therefore, claim 26 and claims 27-33 that depend on claim 26 are not obvious over Rabe-Hesketh and Moussa and alleged knowledge in the art.

Claim 46 recites:

An e-mail system for providing e-mail having attachments, the system comprising:

an e-mail server for:

receiving a particular e-mail message having an attachment, the particular e-mail message being addressed to a recipient having a target device capable of receiving e-mail, the attachment including one or more objects, and

detecting capabilities of the target device, wherein the detecting is performed dynamically, during a request from the recipient to retrieve the e-mail message;

a transformation module for transforming the objects of the attachment to a desired format, based on capabilities of the target device; and

an attachment processing module for replacing the attachment with at least one reference responsive to detecting the target device and responsive to identifying the attachment as exceeding capabilities of the target device<u>, wherein the at least one reference allows retrieval of at least one of the transformed objects</u>;

<u>a retrieval module allowing retrieval of the transformed objects, in response to invocation of at least one reference</u>.

(Claim 46). For the same reasons as discussed in claim 1, neither Rabe-Hesketh nor Moussa teach or suggest "replacing the attachment with at least one reference responsive to detecting the target device and responsive to identifying the attachment as exceeding capabilities of the target device, wherein the at least one reference allows retrieval of at least one of the transformed objects," and this feature is not obvious. Therefore, claim 46 and claims 47-50 that depend on claim 46 are not obvious over Rabe-Hesketh and Moussa and alleged knowledge in the art.
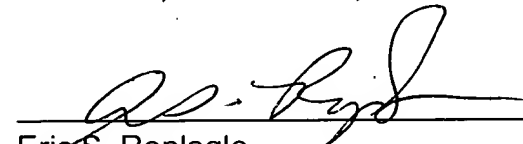
Applicant respectfully submits that in view of the discussion set forth herein, the applicable rejections have been overcome. Accordingly, the present and amended claims should be found to be in condition for allowance.

If a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Eric Replogle at (408) 720-8300.

If there are any additional charges/credits, please charge/credit our deposit account no. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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